

September 21, 2023

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**CHILD CARE BULLETIN (CCB) NO. 23-26**

The purpose of this CCB is to notify counties and child care and development contractors of the continuation of the hold harmless provisions with respect to reimbursement through September 30, 2023, pursuant to [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 116](#) (Chapter 41, Statutes of 2023).



KIM JOHNSON  
DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
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GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

September 21, 2023

CHILD CARE BULLETIN (CCB) NO. 23-26

GUIDANCE TYPE: **DIRECTIVE**

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY CHILD CARE COORDINATORS  
ALL CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTORS

SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF CHILD CARE REIMBURSEMENT BASED ON  
ENROLLMENT RATHER THAN ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR  
CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
ADMINISTERED BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS)

APPLICABLE PROGRAMS: CALIFORNIA ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT PROGRAMS (CAPP)  
MIGRANT ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT PROGRAMS (CMAP)  
CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO  
KIDS (CALWORKS) STAGES ONE, TWO (C2AP), AND THREE  
(C3AP)  
THE EMERGENCY CHILD CARE BRIDGE PROGRAM FOR  
FOSTER CHILDREN (BRIDGE PROGRAM)  
GENERAL CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
(CCTR)  
FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME EDUCATION NETWORKS (CFCC)  
MIGRANT CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
(CMIG)  
CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR  
CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (CHAN)

REFERENCE: [ASSEMBLY BILL \(AB\) 116 \(CHAPTER 41, STATUTES OF 2023\)](#);  
[AB 210 \(CHAPTER 62, STATUTES OF 2022\)](#); [AB 131 \(CHAPTER  
116, STATUTES OF 2021\)](#); [SENATE BILL \(SB\) 140 \(CHAPTER  
193, STATUTES OF 2023\)](#); [CCB NO. 21-07](#); [CCB NO. 21-18](#); [CCB  
NO. 22-19](#)

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this CCB is to provide guidance to counties and child care and development contractors regarding the continuation of voucher reimbursements to be based on enrollment rather than attendance, and center-based reimbursements to be based on 100% of the contract maximum reimbursable amount or net reimbursable program costs, whichever is less, through September 30, 2023, pursuant to [AB 116](#).

### **Background**

Since July 1, 2021, voucher-based providers have been reimbursed based on the maximum certified hours of care instead of attendance. For voucher-based providers serving families on a variable schedule, reimbursement was based on the maximum certified hours of care. For center-based contractors, reimbursement was made at 100% of the contract maximum reimbursable amount or net reimbursable program costs, whichever was less. This CCB refers to these policies, collectively, as “hold harmless with respect to reimbursement.” Affected providers included: Licensed and license-exempt child care providers receiving vouchers through CalWORKs Stage One, C2AP, C3AP, CAPP, CFCC, CMAP, and/or the Bridge Program, as well as contracting agencies operating CMIG, CCTR, and CHAN.

### **Guidance**

Pursuant to Section 24 of [AB 116](#), hold harmless with respect to reimbursement is extended effective July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023, as described below:

#### ***For voucher-based providers:***

- Licensed and license-exempt child care providers receiving vouchers through CalWORKs Stage One, C2AP, or C3AP, CAPP, CFCC, CMAP, or the Bridge Program shall continue to be paid based on families’ maximum certified hours of care as follows:
  - Providers, including license-exempt providers, shall be reimbursed based on the maximum certified hours of care, regardless of attendance.
  - For families certified for a variable schedule, providers shall be reimbursed based on the maximum certified hours of care.
  - For license-exempt providers who provide part-time services, providers shall be reimbursed based on the maximum certified hours of care.

#### ***For direct service contractors:***

CMIG, CCTR, or CHAN contractors that are open and continue operating in accordance with their approved program calendar through the program year shall be reimbursed 100% of the contract maximum reimbursable amount or net reimbursable program cost, whichever is less. Contractors who are not open and do not continue to operate in accordance with their approved program calendar may not be eligible for the reimbursement provisions in AB 116.

CMIG, CCTR, or CHAN contractors utilizing a Family Child Care Home Education Network service delivery model shall continue to pay providers who are open and available to provide services based upon a families' certified need as follows:

- Providers shall be reimbursed based on the maximum authorized hours of care, regardless of attendance.
- For families certified for a variable schedule, providers shall be reimbursed based on the maximum authorized hours of care.

Hold harmless with respect to reimbursement will extend through June 30, 2025, in accordance with SB 140 and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Child Care Provider's Union and CDSS. Additional guidance will be forthcoming.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, please contact your Program Quality and Improvement Consultant or CalWORKs Stage One Child Care analyst. You can find their contact information on the [Child Care and Development Division contact webpage](#).

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By***

LUPE JAIME-MILEHAM, EdD  
Deputy Director  
Child Care and Development Division